

In short, Mr. Speaker, we should remember history but not be misled by myths.

Here is the full text of the editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 11, 2005]

#### PRESIDENT GOES TOO FAR

President Bush has taken surprisingly little heat—but deserves more—for his remarks in Latvia in which he equated President Franklin Roosevelt's conduct at Yalta with Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolf Hitler in 1938 and the division of Poland by Hitler and Joseph Stalin in 1939.

"The agreement at Yalta followed in the unjust tradition of Munich and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact," Bush said. "Once again, when powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable. Yet this attempt to sacrifice freedom for the sake of stability left a continent divided and unstable."

But Yalta did not leave the continent divided. The continent was already divided because Soviet armies were encamped in much of Eastern Europe and were not about to budge. It is true that Yalta's promise of free elections for Eastern Europe, given Stalin's record, amounted to the height of naivete, wishful thinking or cynicism. But even so, there is a vast difference between engineering oppression (Munich and Molotov-Ribbentrop) and sugar-coating its existence on the ground.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

##### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the American Public Works Association's National Public Works Week. From May 15 until May 21, the APWA will be sponsoring the National Public Works Week in a concerted effort to highlight the importance of the United States public infrastructure and public works services. It is my intention today to honor these agencies that are essential to the well-being of our country.

Too often we take the many contributions of public works and services for granted when they are so intricately woven in to the daily fabric of our lives. From the roads we travel to the clean tap water we use for drinking, public works pervade every facet of our lives. Our communities rely upon the public works agencies that provide the water, sewers, roadways, public buildings and waste collection to ensure that the communities we live, work and play in are safe.

The public works that operate in our neighborhoods and cities require maintenance by a staff of public employees. The staff that diligently design, build, maintain, and repair the public works projects are the invisible hands, or the people behind the scenes, that have dedicated themselves to the service of our communities. These hardworking individuals deserve the greatest of respect for the commitment they have shown in serving our communities' welfare.

In my own state of West Virginia, the influential hand of the public works and services reaches deep into the foundation of our state's economy. I have advocated vigorously for access to clean water sources for citizens as

well as effective waste water treatment sites to preserve the streams of my state. The Public Service Commission's Water and Wastewater division offers seminars that trained 220 utility employees about its new Water and Sewer rules last year alone. The PSC's transportation division regulates gas pipeline safety and regularly inspects reports of weakening infrastructure and leaks. Just last year they completed pipeline failure investigations of a ruptured pipeline in Wyoming County as well as an incident at Rocky Fork, WV.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending their own public works and services employees for the duties they perform. The services they provide are essential to our nation's well-being. The National Public Works Week provides us an opportunity to do so, and we should take it.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATRICIA COUGHLAN

##### HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the contributions of Patricia Coughlan, who is the recipient of the "Tribute to Women Award," the Suburban Republican Women's Club highest honor.

Since 1985, Ms. Coughlan has been an active member of the Suburban Republican Women, formerly known as the Livonia Republican Women and Western Suburbs Club, an august organization in which she has served in a variety of senior leadership positions. One of the major accomplishments of Ms. Coughlan's hard work has been the creation and publication of the informative and inspiring Suburban Republican Women's Club newsletter, for which she currently serves as Editor-in-Chief.

It is an honor to pay homage to Ms. Coughlan, whose participation in shaping the political process has helped ensure representative government by inspiring others to play their full parts within our Nation's continuing experiment in democracy. Her devoted, compassionate leadership in our community has advanced the cause of democracy in our country, and exemplified America's innate humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Patricia Coughlan and hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and thanking her for her contributions to our community and country.

#### TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ACT 2005

##### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, The United States entered into a Totalization agreement with Mexico on June 29, 2004. This agreement, like 20 others currently in force, is an effort to reconcile time worked in another country—under a different tax code and pension system—with time worked here at home, to

ensure workers have the proper amount of credits for their lifetime contributions to their retirement.

The Social Security Act allows for these types of agreements, but, unfortunately, it has a flawed mechanism for Congressional approval. Frankly, there are serious questions about whether the statutory approval process for Totalization agreements is even Constitutional.

Under current law, the President negotiates an agreement with another country, and then submits it to Congress for approval. Congress then has 60 days during which either the House or Senate are in session to consider the agreement and to disapprove it if necessary. The problem is that if one House of Congress passed a motion of disapproval, precedent suggests that it would be ruled an unconstitutional legislative veto.

The bill I'm introducing today will correct that. Since Totalization agreements are similar to trade agreements, I have proposed changes to the Social Security Act that will allow for an expedited consideration of any agreements for congressional approval, like we do for trade agreements. It would also require an actual affirmative vote for the agreement to take effect, rather than the current 60-day rule where if neither house acts, the agreement is deemed as accepted. A 60-day use-it-or-lose-it process does not respect the responsibilities of this House in drafting the laws of the country.

We need to protect the role of the legislative branch as the law-making body of this land. Current law does not do this, but my bill, the Totalization Agreement Congressional Approval Act 2005, will.

#### TERRORIST REWARDS ENHANCEMENT ACT

##### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Terrorist Rewards Enhancement Act. This bill will assist in our fight against terrorism around the globe. Currently, the terrorist rewards program run by the State Department assists in our hunt for terrorists by promising a cash reward or other type of reward for information leading to the arrest of some of the world's most deadly terrorists. This program has been very successful in the past in apprehending key people including Mir Amal Kansi, a terrorist who had murdered two CIA employees and injured three others in a 1993 shooting outside CIA headquarters in Virginia.

Under current law, the U.S. may not pay a reward to an officer or employee of another government. In January I traveled to Pakistan, where I meet with a number of government officials. At the strong suggestion of Pakistan's ISI and IB Intelligence and Police bureaus, I believe the President should be able to pay such a reward to anyone having information leading us to the greatest terrorists. If there is anyone, anywhere, even if they work for a Pakistani government agency, who has information about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, we should be doing all we can to apprehend him.